

Habakkuk 2:5-11

New American Bible (Revised Edition)

Sayings Against Tyrants

⁵ ^[a] Indeed wealth is treacherous;
a proud man does not succeed.
He who opens wide his throat like Sheol,
and is insatiable as death,
Who gathers to himself all the nations,
and collects for himself all the peoples —
⁶ Shall not all these take up a taunt against him,
and make a riddle about him, saying:

Ah! you who store up what is not yours
—how long can it last! —
you who load yourself down with collateral.
⁷ Will your debtors^[b] not rise suddenly?
Will they not awake, those who make you tremble?
You will become their spoil!

⁸ Because you plundered many nations,
the remaining peoples shall plunder you;
Because of the shedding of human blood,
and violence done to the land,
to the city and to all who live in it.

⁹ Ah! you who pursue evil gain for your household,
setting your nest on high
to escape the reach of misfortune!
¹⁰ You have devised shame for your household,
cutting off many peoples, forfeiting your own life;
¹¹ For the stone in the wall shall cry out,^[c]
and the beam in the frame shall answer it!

Footnotes

1. [2:5](#) This verse describes any tyrant who, like the Babylonians, possesses insatiable greed.
2. [2:7 Debtors](#): the Hebrew term can mean either debtors or creditors, and this double meaning is likely intended: the debtor nations rise up against their creditor nation and become its creditors in the reversal of affairs described here.
3. [2:11–12](#) The palaces, built at the expense of gross injustice ([vv. 6–10](#)), call down vengeance on their builders. This is typical prophetic language for the condemnation of social crimes within Israel and Judah.